Something concerning the

Myſtery of Godlineſs

And ſomething concerning the

Myſtery of Iniquity.

By Nicholas Knight.

Something concerning the Myſtery of Godlineſs.

GReat is the Myſtery of Godlineſs in Chriſt Jeſus, the Son of the living God, who came from the Boſom of the Father, to make known and reveal his Will, as alſo to fulfil his Will in the Body prepared for him, wherein to fulfil all Righteouſneſs, and to reconcile unto his Father, through his Blood, all that come unto God by him; there being no other Name given, whereby any, in and among all Nations and People, ſhould be ſaved, but of Jeſus Chriſt, the Anointed of God, who ſhould ſave his People, and in whom all Nations ſhould be bleſſed, that to as

many as truly believed in him, ſhould be given Life Everlaſting, as we follow after him, to be meek as he is meek, and holy as he is holy in our whole converſations, holineſs becoming his Houſe, and without which none ſhall ſee the Lord, which becometh the ſaints and choſen of God, to fulfil all righteouſneſs in Chriſt Jeſus, who works all our Works in us and for us; and ſo every true Believer to walk as becometh the Goſpel of Chriſt, to the Honour of our God, who hath called us out of the world (which lies in wickedneſs) to be his peculiar People, zealous of Good Works, which the Lord requires we ſhould live in them, and ſo to have one another for an Example as any follow Chriſt in the ſelf-denyal, and taking up the daily croſs, without which none can be truly his Diſciples without they forſake all to follow him, and be reſigned up in their own Wills wholely to ſubject to the Will of God, as Chriſt came to do and ſuffer the Will of God, ſo are we his Followers alſo, as he ſuffered reproach in the world, and the contradiction of ſinners ſo muſt we; as he ſuffered for Righteouſneſs unto Death, ſo are we to be given up, if the Will of the Lord be ſo, and to be evil-ſpoken of and hated of all men for his Name's ſake, as he ſuffered for us, ſo we to be willing for him to fill up the Meaſure of his Sufferings, that if we ſuffer with him we may reign with him; ſo we confeſſing him before men, he will confeſs us before his Father in Heaven; therefore not any to be afraid of men, who only can deſtroy the Body, but fear God, who is able to deſtroy Body and Soul in Hell Fire, and ſo to

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believe in Jesus Christ, who (only) is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by him, who is the only Saviour (of the world) of all such as believe in him, and are united with him in the one spirit to be in him and he is in us *the hope of glory*; as he also is in the Father, and the Father in him, reconciling the World unto himself; so *desires not the Death of a Sinner, but that all should repent and live*, as they become true Followers of Christ, without which none can truly hope to see Life: *for he is the only way unto the Father, and none can come unto God but by him, who is the Light of the World, & hath given to every one a measure of his Grace to profit withal*, as they walk in his Light, *which is the Light of Life*, & abide in him, so they shall bring forth fruits meet for Repentance unto Life, and their end will be everlasting Peace and Happiness; whenas those who live in the Rebellion & Disobedience to his *word nigh in the heart and mouth*, which is Light, they walk in Darkness, and although the Light shine in them, yet they comprehend it not, stumbling in the dark, and know not whither they are going, even into the Chambers of Death, &c. but those only who hear his Word, know his Will, and do it, shall be justified of God in Christ, for who walk not circumspectively in Obedience to the Spirit of God, but allow themselves liberty to break his Commandments such cannot be happy in that state, the Lord is against them; God's Command is, *Obey the Lord, thou shalt love thy Neighbour as thy self*; therefore if any respect Persons in Judgment, or give flattering Titles, they commit sin, but he who offendeth not in word & deed, is a perfect man & needeth not be asham'd; but sin brings under condemnation & those

whose hearts are not upright before God (however they profess him with their mouthes, yet in works deny him) neither their Prayers nor Services shall be accepted of God, but God will say to them, *Depart ye from me ye Workers of Iniquity I know ye not*, &c. For it is not enough to profess the Name of Christ, & be called after it; to frequent the Assemblies of the Saints, to have their Understandings so far opened, to consent to the Truth declared by the Prophets & Messengers of the Lord, who are sent to bring Glad-tidings of Salvation, in preaching again the everlasting Gospel; & the Faith once delivered to the Saints; & although for some Ages & Generations past, it hath been hid from the World, which was apostatized from it, they following and worshipping the Beast and false Prophet for a time, times and half a time, while the true Church was fled into the Wilderness) yet now blessed be the Lord she is seen coming out of the wilderness again, and Witnesses are raised to stand upon their Feet, who are made to see, and taste, and handle of the Word of Life; and as it is revealed in them to testifie to it. And so, although many may come to the Knowledge hereof, whoever great or small, rich or poor, male or female, &c. and yet come not forward to grow up in the Knowledge of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, from Faith to Faith from strength to Strength towards a perfect man in Christ Jesus, to witness the Lord's teaching, and experience his they are none of his Power the Gospel of Christ being the Power of God unto Salvation, unto as many as believe in his Name, so to know the Pourings forth of his Spirit, its leadings, teaching in the Truth, and drawing unto Christ by the Father, whereby they receive Power to become the Sons and Daughters of God separated from Sinners, called out of *Babylon*, and gathered into the Fellowship of the Saints in Light, into the one true church which is the Ground and Pillar of Truth, and to be members of that body, whereof Christ Jesus is the head as by the one Spirit to be governed, which leads into all Truth, for the Mistery of Godliness stands in the Power, to be made one Spirit with the Lord, to know the Kingdom of Heaven within, out of the dead Forms, where Christ is not known in them Governor, who are out of the Power; whereas Christ is one, his Name one, his Power one in every one of his Children

dren, according to the Measure of Grace and Faith given unto them to grow up therein, from the Child's State to the young man's; and from the young man's State to the Father's in Christ; they that are found doing the Will of Christ, are Christ's, as they abide and grow up in him, members of his Body the true Church whereof he is the Head, and so are conformed unto him in the renewing after his likeness, in Righteousness and Holiness and so they are the Redeemed of the Lord, and have the Witness in themselves through the Spirit, that they are the Children of God, and so are God's Witnesses of his Goodness, Mercy and Truth, against the wicked & ungodly practices of the World, which are contrary to the Truth as it is in Jesus, there being but one Faith, one Baptism, one Lord Jesus, &c. So who are his true Professors and Members are one with him, being governed by him and the whole Body is in sweet Unity & Harmony; Christ is not divided, he was in the time of his Flesh no respecter of Persons, neither were his true Followers then, nor now are such to have mens Persons in Admiration for Advantage sake, but seek the honour which is from above only, & not that below one of another, in flattering Titles; or bodily Reverence, to give or receive, but being restored to be a People of a pure Language, not double-tongued or speaking in a mixt Language; but how is it that so many who are seeming to own Christ & his Truth, are out of his & his People's Practice, shaming to speak the plain Language of *Thee* and *Thou* to all single Persons what ever rich or poor, Friend or Foe, and do keep in the World's customes of giving titular Honours, and flattering Titles contrary to the command and example of Christ, and the Doctrine and Example of the holy Apostles God, requires not to be conformed to the World, but *transformed in the renewing of our Minds*? therefore with whom are we to unite, with the World or Christ? if we love the one we must hate the other, we cannot serve two Masters, &c. If ye be of Christ, why is there a neglect of assembling together, to pray together, to worship God together, and to stand as witnesses together for God and Christ and his Truth, that living with him and to him, and suffering for him we may also reign with him; and herein all labour to preserve the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace, which is the Bond of Perfection, where all by the one Spirit of the Lord are made to speak and do the same things, so to be one in the Lord; which who are not, are none of his Disciples, &c.

Something

Something concerning the Myſtery of Iniquity.

IN the Beginning the Lord made all things good, and the ſeventh day the Lord reſting from all his works which he had made, bleſſed and ſanctified it; but the Serpent, who kept not his ſtation, in which he was made good, through his Pride and Ambition to be equal with God was caſt out of Heaven, and became the Prince of the Air, and bore rule on the Earth in the heart of fallen man, who being a Lyar from the beginning of his rebellion againſt God, he is the Father of lies, & the god of this world ruling in the hearts of all the Children of diſobedience, who are led captive at his pleaſure, being alienated from God, in the tranſgreſſion of the Law of God, who forbids to eat of the tree of Knowledge of good and evil, which the Serpent by his guile and ſubtilty ſeducing *Eve* ſhe did take and eat of, and gave thereof unto her Husband *Adam*, and he did eat alſo; ſo having tranſgreſſed againſt the Lord, ſought to hide themſelves from his preſence, and ſeeing their Nakedneſs made them coverings of fig-leaves, having loſt their original Righteouſneſs, who were made after the Image of God, which now was vailed in them, the Light ſhining in darkneſs, and the darkneſs comprehending it not; ſo they became corrupt in all their Wayes, and their Imaginations evil continually; God made man upright, but he hath found out many Inventions; but Grace and Peace comes by Jeſus Chriſt the promiſed ſeed, that bruiſeth the Serpent's head, although it ſhould bruiſe his heel, being the falſe Accuſer of the Saints, ſeeking to diſquiet them by his Buffetings, Winnowings and Temptations, but the Lord's Grace is ſufficient for them; and through Faith in his Name they get victory over ſin and Satan, and ſo bleſſed be the Lord, this we do witneſs in meaſure, who have believed in his Name and taſted of the good Word of Faith, and we do know that our Redeemer liveth, who hath renewed us into his Image to be made one with him in the Sanctification of the Spirit, whereas the world lies in wickedneſs, under the captivity and bondage of Satan, who doth work myſteriouſly, and deceives with all deceiveableneſs, being a lying Spirit in the mouthes of his Prophets, being Wolves in Sheeps-clothing, to deceive the ignorant and ſimple, who know not God, nor their ſubtilty; but through their Father

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the devil whose works they do, they have in all ages past set up forms of Religions and Worships, after their own evil Imaginations, and so still are upholding them out of the Power of God, only in the Imitation and Likeness of spiritual things; but indeed spiritual wickedness reign in high places, the blind leading the blind, and both fall into the Ditch, being of the evil Seed of Unbelief, separated from God, alienated in their Minds from the Law of God, and to every good work reprobated, &c. So the tree is known by its Fruit, as the good tree by its good Fruits, which are of the Spirit of God; so also the evil tree by its evil Fruits, which are of the erring Spirit the Devil, setting up his Threshold by God's Threshold, his Altars by God's Altar, in the times before the Law, under the Law, and now under the Gospel, seeting up Imitations of worship: Did *Abel* offer unto the Lord of the first fruits of his Flock? so did cursed *Cain* of the Fruits of the Earth, and because his Brother's Sacrifice was accepted, and his own not, therefore he slew him, becoming the first Persecutor of the Righteous for Righteousnes sake, in whom the Devil had stirred up the enmity against his Brother and so hath done and doth in all his Seed of evil doers since until this day, as they hated Christ so also his followers, because their deeds are good, and their own evil, they being kept in the Spirit of the world, which hath no discerning of the things of God, but only savours of the things of this World, eying only visible things, and not the invisible God, who is only spiritually known to be a Spirit, and to be worshipped in Spirit and Truth by all that draw near unto him and profess his Name; but they are acted in the outward forms by the Spirit of the world, that rules in them (out of the Power of God that brings out of evil) under the Power of the wicked one, who leads into all evil, and every abomination, and keeps them bound under it, being one Spirit with their father the Devil whose works they do, and will do, notwithstanding the Lord's secret Reproofs and Calls by his Word, *nigh in their Hearts and Mouthes*, in patience and long-suffering to lead them to Repentance, yet will receive none of his Reproofs, but cast his word behind their Backs, hating to be reformed, so their destruction is of themselves and God will be justified when he judgeth for their Evil Deeds done in the Body, which they must certainly give an account of, and receive their just and everlasting reward and doom with the

Devil

Devil and his Angels, the Beast and false Prophet, if they repent not, *Go ye cursed, &c.* and then it will be a fearful thing to fall into the Hand of the living God; *For shall not he the Judge of all the Earth do justly, and who can escape? &c.* for how have you the evil generations of this wicked world corrupted your selves in all your wayes? &c. for have you not abounded in all manner of wicked, and cursed, and evil speaking and doing, as abominable before God, professing ye know God, yet in works deny him, persecuting his seed, and speaking evil of what ye know not? how hath *Atheism, Heathenism, Judaism* and *Antichristianism* long reigned, and how do these abound until this time? *The Fool hath said in his Heart there is no God*; the *Heathen* worshipping their Idols instead of the true God; the *Mahometans, Mahomet* instead of Christ the great Prophet; the *Romanist* and *Papist*, &c. exalting a *carnal man* as a head, instead of Christ the head of his church which is the ground and pillar of Truth; Christ injoyning a spiritual worship, they a formal, superstitious and Idolatrous one, in outward observations and ceremonies, &c. others called Christians pretended more reformed, yet setting up Forms without the Power of Godliness, in the same Spirit of Enmity with the others against the true Worshippers of God, who desire only to exalt Christ and his Kingdom within, to know no other head or Lawgiver in the church, but he, whose kingdom is not of this world; but they seek pre-eminence, and to lord it over one another's Faith, & seeking to impose upon the consciences of men, who are the Lord's free men, and cannot be brought under any other yoke but Christ's, desiring to know nothing but him to reign, and no other law-giver but Christ, and his government in their hearts, of which there shall be no end, whose scepter is a righteous scepter, and who shall rule until all his enemies be brought under his feet, when it may be said, *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?* When we shall thank our God *through Jesus Christ, by Faith in whom we have overcome, &c. and shall be made Partakers of everlasting Glory with Christ, whenas the Memory of the wicked shall rot, and they perish in everlasting woe and torment, &c.*

The 19th of the 12th Moneth, 1676.

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